

HOUSE RESOLUTION 251

By Rogers

A RESOLUTION to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Rockland Baptist Church.

WHEREAS, the churches of our nation have been an integral part of our history as a people and have had an unparalleled impact in forming and maintaining a stable and just society; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should recognize those venerable religious institutions and their congregations that, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, strive to enrich the lives of people in their communities; and

WHEREAS, one such dynamic and historic community of faith is that of Rockland Baptist Church, the members of which are celebrating the church's 150th anniversary this year; and

WHEREAS, Rockland Baptist Church was organized on November 25, 1868, and the first church service was held in a dwelling house; and

WHEREAS, paying \$125 in cash, deacons Jim Bugg, George Fite, and Jack Reid purchased property for the church in Hendersonville on January 7, 1871, from Charlotte Brown, the widow of Ruffin Brown; the property was registered with the State of Tennessee on January 18, 1872, with W.H. Owens and Steve Lewis witnessing; and

WHEREAS, the congregation has worshipped in several buildings over the years: the first was erected in 1880 and was used as a place of worship and a school; it was followed by a stone building that soon collapsed and a building constructed in 1895 that was partially destroyed by fire in 1914. Later, a new and more modern building was constructed, and in

October 2009, church members celebrated their inheritance of the promise of God through faith and patience, as they were blessed with a new worship center; and

WHEREAS, throughout the last 150 years, a number of ministers have led Rockland Baptist Church, including Reverends Shipp, A.O. Kenry, Sam Bryant, Drew Bateman, Tom Mills, Frank Harrison, Albert G. Jones, O.C. McClain, Willie L. Scott, Floyd Prude, James K.L. Alexander, John A. Perry, and Lloyd S. Peoples; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Leslie E. Stratton came to the church in September 1997 and presented to members the vision statement, "In this church we will utilize all of our time, talents, and tenths to provide Christ-centered ministries where people in this community can be redeemed to a personal relationship with Christ, reconciled to God and his people, restored to wholeness and well-being, and revived for a full life of involved service to others"; and

WHEREAS, later that year, Pastor Stratton presented to members the mission statement, "Through Christ-centered ministries, we desire to be distinguished as the church with the undying concern for individuals"; and

WHEREAS, under Pastor Stratton's leadership, Rockland Baptist Church continues to be a light in the community, and the devout members of the congregation have faithfully striven to carry out God's work in the world; and

WHEREAS, as a powerful tool in the service of the Kingdom of God, Rockland Baptist Church is truly one of the great religious institutions and catalysts for positive spiritual change in our State and Nation, and the members of this exceptional congregation should be appropriately honored for their exemplary service to their fellow Christians and to the good people of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we join in the celebration of the 150th anniversary of Rockland Baptist Church, thank the good people of this historic congregation and their ministers for their notable service to their Lord and the State of Tennessee, and wish them much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.